

ARGONNE
NATIONAL
LABORATORY

INTRA-LABORATORY MEMO

October 3, 1973

700990

TO: CHR Records Room

FROM: J. E. Farnham *J.E.F.*

SUBJECT: Exhumation of

40-010

Mr. Frank T. Hicks of the Rector Funeral Chapel, Inc., 111 Main Street, Geneseo, New York 14454, made all the arrangements for the exhumation of Miss _____ to take place on September 24, 1973.

Upon my arrival at the Rector Funeral Chapel, I introduced myself to Mr. Hicks, President. Mr. Hicks introduced me to two of his assistants, a Mr. Herman Yarbrough and Mr. Larry Miller. I inspected the documents pertaining to the disinterment, after which we all left for the Geneseo Temple Hill Cemetery.

The grave had been opened by the cemetery personnel exposing a concrete vault. Two workmen from the concrete vault company entered the grave and broke open the vault with mallets and chisels. Approximately 2" of water was seen in the bottom of the vault. I requested a hole be chipped in the bottom of one end of the vault to let the water drain out, which they did. After the vault was opened, these two vault company workers hastily departed the area. We removed the casket, which was falling apart, placed it on a flat cart and took it to a workshed area. The casket showed signs of much deterioration mostly on the external sides and bottom.

Within the confines of the shed, we opened the casket and transferred the remains to a Ziegler case. The flesh on the exposed face and hands was considerably dehydrated, shriveled and a dark black in color. In handling the remains, however, the tissue felt softer than its dehydrated appearance would suggest. No mold was present on the remains. Superficial observation (will check further in our laboratory) suggests a complete post was done on this body. The cadaver was in good condition.

We sealed the Ziegler case with metal screws. The casket, which was falling apart, was returned to the grave site where the men from the vault company had broken apart the old vault, removed all the pieces, installed a new concrete vault in the grave and then departed. The casket pieces were placed in the new vault, the vault cover placed in position, but unsealed, and the grave was closed.

We placed the Ziegler case containing the remains of Miss _____ in the station wagon and drove back to the Rector Funeral Chapel. I went, from there, to a motel to clean up and stay the night. We delivered the remains

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to United Air Freight Office in Rochester, New York for shipment to Chicago on Flight 899 leaving Rochester at 10:25 a.m. on September 25, 1973.

Upon my arrival back at the Laboratory at approximately 4:30 p.m. on September 25, 1973, I found that the remains had not been delivered to Argonne at this late hour. I then called Mr. Markiewicz who stated over the phone that the airlines had not contacted him as yet. I called the United Air Freight Office and requested that they trace the shipment. I also called Mr. Hicks in Geneseo and obtained the air bill number of the shipment (#0635-8973) and requested Mr. Hicks to call Rochester and start tracing the shipment from that direction. At 7:30 p.m. I received a call from United. They informed me that the shipment had been located. I then called Mr. Markiewicz and told him he could pick up the shipment at his convenience. I left for home.

A series of photographs were taken during this disinterment. As the photographs were initially taken on 35 mm color film, a description of the photographs will be made when processing of the film has been completed at a later date.

JEF/jt

cc: A. F. Stehney
M. M. Shanahan

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